

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE NIACT

S E C R E T STATE 265487

NODIS

FOLLOWING DACCA 5417 SENT ACTION SECSTATE NOV. 8, REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T DACCA 5417

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BOSTER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG

SUBJECT: BDG REQUEST OF USG SUPPORT

REF: STATE 265069

1. I TELEPHONED THE PRESIDENT'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY CHASHI
AT 0935 NOVEMBER 8 AND GAVE HIM RESPONSE PROVIDED IN REFTEL
(HE PREFERRED THAT I GIVE IT TO HIM BY PHONE IN THE INTEREST
OF SPEED). HE SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE OUR REPLY IMMEDIATELY
TO THE PRESIDENT AND WOULD MAKE NO FURTHER RESPONSE AT THIS
TIME.

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2. I ASKED WHAT HE COULD TELL ME ABOUT THE SITUATION TODAY. WAS IT CALM? CHASHI SAID YES, IT WAS MUCH BETTER THAN WHEN WE HAD TALKED YESTERDAY BUT THAT THEY WERE STILL KEEPING CLOSE WATCH INTERNALLY AND WOULD OF COURSE CONTINUE TO APPRECIATE OUR ATTEMPTS TO INFORM INDIA AND PAKISTAN OF THEIR CONCERN AND ALSO OF THEIR MOTIVATION BEHIND THIS CONCERN, WHICH WAS EXCLUSIVELY INTERNAL. HE SAID IT WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO AVOID INFLAMATORY STATEMENTS IN NEW DELHI WHICH MIGHT DISTURB THE FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE IN BANGLADESH. HE SAID THAT ANY WORDS USED BY THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT, ITS SPOKESMEN, OR BY THE PRESS IN INDIA, WHICH BECAME KNOWN HERE, WOULD HAVE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT. HE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ISSUED A STATEMENT YESTERDAY THAT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HAD IN NO WAY IMPAIRED THE SECURITY OF LIFE AND PROPERTY OF ANY FOREIGN NATIONAL LIVING IN BANGLADESH. HE SAID THIS STATEMENT HAD BEEN ISSUED BECAUSE THE INDIAN RADIO IN NEW DELHI AND CALCUTTA HAD QUOTED OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN ON THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION IN BANGLADESH.

3. I ASKED IF THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE PRESS TODAY THAT PRESIDENT SAYEM HAD TAKEN OVER FROM GENERAL ZIA AS CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR HAD AFFECTED THE EQUATION OR HAD DEPARTED FROM THE SENSE OF THE STATEMENT HE HAD GIVEN ME YESTERDAY ABOUT THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS BEING THE RESULT OF STRONG SUPPORT FROM ALL THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES CONCERNED. CHASHI REPLIED THAT THIS CHANGE ONLY CONFIRMED THE STATEMENT HE HAD MADE TO ME YESTERDAY, THAT THIS WAS WHAT THEY HAD IN MIND ALL ALONG. HE ADDED THAT EVERYTHING THAT HE HAD TOLD ME WAS NOW PUBLIC AND THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS WERE NOW KNOWN TO THE WORLD, AND IT WAS EXACTLY AS THEY HAD INTENDED.

4. DCM HAS JUST RETURNED FROM MAKING PARALLEL RESPONSE TO ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY WHO EXPRESSED HIS AGREEMENT WITH OUR RESPONSE AND HIS PROFOUND GRATITUDE.

5. WE WILL BE COMMENTING IN SEPARATE MESSAGE ON SITUATION HERE TODAY BUT ESSENTIALLY THE ATMOSPHERE IS CALM AND THE APPEARANCE OF THE CITY, AFTER YESTERDAY'S WILD DAY, IS NORMAL.

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6. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT TO NEW DELHI AND ISLAMABAD. BOSTER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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